

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Canceled)
2. (Currently Amended) A process for manufacturing a water-absorbing composite comprising the steps of:
  - (A) spraying an aqueous monomer solution containing acrylic acid and/or its salt on a heat-raised fibrous substrate to apply droplets of the aqueous monomer solution on the fiber constituting the fibrous substrate;
  - (B) polymerizing the monomers in the droplets to form a water-absorbing composite in which water-absorbing resin particles adhere to the fiber constituting the fibrous substrate; and
  - (C) thermo-compressing the water-absorbing composite prepared in step (B) by passing the water-absorbing composite between a pair of rollers, wherein at least one of the pair of rollers has a surface with an uneven pattern which is included within a 10 mm-diameter circle and is two dimensionally repeated with an interval of 1-5 mm.
- 3-6. (Canceled)
7. (Withdrawn) A process for manufacturing a laminated water-absorbing composite comprising the steps of: (A) spraying an aqueous monomer solution

containing acrylic acid and/or its salt on a heat-raised fibrous substrate to apply droplets of the aqueous monomer solution on the fiber constituting the fibrous substrate; (B) polymerizing the monomers in the droplets to form a water-absorbing composite in which the water-absorbing composite in which the water-absorbing resin particles adhere to the fiber constituting the fibrous substrate; and (D) laminating the water-absorbing composite prepared in step (B) and a fibrous substrate to form a laminate and then passing the laminate between a pair of rollers, at least one of which is heated, for thermally compressing the laminate to integrate combine the water-absorbing composite and the fibrous substrate by thermal fusion.

8. (Withdrawn) The process for manufacturing a laminated water-absorbing composite as claimed in claim 7, wherein at least one of the pair of rollers has a surface with an uneven pattern.

9. (Previously Presented) The process for manufacturing a water-absorbing composite as claimed in claim 2, wherein the amount of the water-absorbing resin particles adhering to the fibrous substrate is  $100 \text{ g/m}^2$  or more.

10. (Previously Presented) The process for manufacturing a water-absorbing composite as claimed in claim 2, wherein the amount of the water-absorbing resin particles adhering to the fibrous substrate is  $250 \text{ g/m}^2$  or more.

11. (Previously Presented) The process for manufacturing a water-absorbing composite as claimed in claim 2, wherein the aqueous monomer solution contains a crosslinking agent in 1000 to 5000 ppm to the amount of the monomers.
  
12. (Previously Presented) The process for manufacturing a water-absorbing composite as claimed in claim 2, wherein the fibrous substrate to be sprayed with the aqueous monomer solution is an unwoven fabric with a tensile strength of 50 to 300 g/25 mm.